

Message Text

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16

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0177

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PDEV MZ

SUBJ: CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO MOZAMBIQUE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY: NAMES OF CANDIDATES SELECTED BY ACCAO NACIONAL POPULAR (ANP) TO CONTEST MARCH 24-26 ELECTIONS TO MOZAMBIQUE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND ADVISORY COUNCIL WERE PUBLISHED SEVERAL DAYS AGO. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS INDICATES LARGE INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF NON- WHITES IN BOTH BODIES.

2. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT YET POSITIVELY IDENTIFY ALL CANDIDATES, OUR FIRST COUNT INDICATES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LIST CONTAINS 26 EUROPEAN PORTUGUESE, AT LEAST 14 AFRICANS, THREE MULATTOS, THREE INDIAN- PAKISTANI, ONE GOAN AND ONE CHINESE, WITH REMAINING TWO OF AS YET UNKNOWN ETHNIC ORIGIN.

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EM ADVISORY COUNCIL LIST OF 13 ELECTED MEMBERS AND THEIR
13 ALTERNATES INCLUDES 12 EUROPEAN PORTUGUESE, FOUR AFRICANS,

THREE MULATTOS, THREE GOANS, AND ONE CHINESE. THREE NOT YET IDENTIFIED.

4. NAMES AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA WILL BE POUCHED.

5. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY COMING ELECTIONS ARE NOT GOING TO BE EXPRESSIONS OF POPULAR WILL AND CANNOT BE THOUGHT OF IN SAME TERMS AS DEMOCRATIC ELECTIVE PROCESSES. ABOVE CANDIDATES WERE SELECTED BY ANP, PORTUGAL'S ONLY LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY. OPPOSITION CANDIDATES, IF THEY SHOULD APPEAR, HAVE NO CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED. HOWEVER, THE APPROVED LIST CONTAINS AT LEAST SEVERAL PERSONS WHO HAVE IN THE PAST EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO LISBON POLICIES. ALSO, LARGE INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF NON- WHITES (THERE ARE ONLY FOUR IN PRESENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL) IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD.

6. AT SAME TIME, NEW LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IS EXPECTED HAVE LITTLE ACTUAL POWER AND WILL PROBABLY, LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR, SERVE AT LEAST FOR A WHILE AS RUBBER STAMP FOR LAWS DRAWN UP BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH. HENCE INCREASE IN NON- WHITES IS LARGELY FOR PUBLIC EFFECT AND PORTUGUESE HAVE NO PRESENT INTENTION OF ALLOWING EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE CONTROL TO PASS INTO ASSEMBLY'S HANDS. ON OTHER HAND, MANY SO- CALLED " TAME" AFRICANS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WERE ORIGINALLY APPOINTED FOR SIMILAR MOTIVES TO GOVERNING BODIES BY THEIR COLONIAL MASTERS DID NOT REMAIN CONTENT WITH A PASSIVE ROLE AND SUCCESSFULLY UTILIZED THEIR POSITIONS TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION AND ACQUIRE POLITICAL INFLUENCE. IF HISTORY IS ANY JUDGE, ONE MIGHT SPECULATE THAT SUCH PROCESS COULD ALSO TAKE PLACE IN MOZAMBIQUE, WITH OR WITHOUT PORTUGUESE ABETTANCE, ALBEIT MORE SLOWLY THAN IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, GIVEN LACK OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS IN THE METROPOLE TO SERVE AS EXAMPLE. EVENTUALLY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MIGHT PROVIDE SOUNDING BOARD FOR AFRICAN VIEWS, AND BECOME TRAINING GROUND FOR AFRICANS BEING GROOMED FOR POSITIONS OF HIGHER RESPONSIBILITY, THUS STIMULATING GROWTH OF POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG ELEMENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE POPULACE WHO HAVE UP TO PRESENT SHOWN RELATIVELY LITTLE INTEREST IN POLITICAL MATTERS.

VAN OSS

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TAGS: PGOV PDEV MZ
To: STATE INFO BLANTYRE
CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
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